(d) if so, what was the number of such units at the end of March, 2001 and the amount of capital invested therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The number of industriral units in the Small Scale Sector in the country is estimated to have increased from 29.44 lakhs at the end of March, 1998 to 3310 lakhs at the end of March, 2001.

(c) and (d) As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which compiled data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial banks, the number of sick SSI units at the end of March, 1998 was 2,21,536 which increased to 3,06,221 at the end of March, 1999. However, the same has decreased to 3,04,235 at the end of March, 2000 and further to 2,49,630 at the end of March, 2001. Data on capital investment in sick units is not maintained centrally. As per RBI, the bank's amount outstanding in these sick units was 4505.54 crores at the end of March, 2001.

Revival of SSI in Jharkhand and Bihar

3939. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries closed down in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the efforts made and the steps taken by Government to revive these units before their closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick units financed by scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, there were 26293, 26909 and 16423 sick units by the end of March, 1999, March 2000 and March 2001 respectively in the erstwhile Bihar State, which includes the newly formed Jharkhand State.

(b) The main reasons for sickness/closure are inadequacy of credit, technological obsolescence, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies etc.

(c) The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units, which *inter-alia* include institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs), Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and State Financial Institutions, and elaborate guidelines issued by the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the then Chairman of Indian Bank's Association, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include *inter-alia* change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January 2002 to all the banks for implementation.

Dereservation of items enlisted for SSI sector

†3940. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of products reserved to be manufactured by Small Scale Industries has been reduced from time to time during the period from March, 1998 to March, 2002;

(b) if so, when and which products has been taken out from the reserved list; and

(c) the products existed in the reserved list by the end of March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.